

7

A NEW
T R E A T I S E
ON THE
VENEREAL DISEASE,
GLEETS, SEMINAL WEAKNESSES,
The dreadful Effects of
A CERTAIN DETESTABLE VICE,
AND THE
CAUSES OF IMPOTENCY,
BARRENNESS, &c.

Directing METHODS of CURE, established by the
Success of a long and extensive Practice.

By J. S M Y T H, M. D.
and MAN-MIDWIFE.

THE EIGHTEENTH EDITION.

L O N D O N :

Printed for the AUTHOR, 1781.

[Price 1s. 6d.]

TO

CHARLES LUCAS, Esq;

M. D.

SIR,

IT is with the greatest pleasure I embrace this opportunity to declare the obligations I am under to you for part of the knowledge I have acquired in my profession.

The world beholds with pleasure what an ornament you are to physic; and are well convinced how much it is indebted to you for the inestimable improvements you have made, not only in chemistry, but in many parts of the Materia Medica.

Your success in the healing art is sufficient to demonstrate the refined share of sense you are possessed of; and this success, not immediately effected by pursuing the common methods, but by your just and perfect conception of the nature of the human fabric, and the diseases it is incident to, renders your mode of practice worthy the attention of every practitioner.

A 2

I am

D E D I C A T I O N

I am not at all apprehensive of being too free with your name on this occasion: your generous disposition, in being always ready to patronize any thing for the good and relief of mankind, induced me to think this small Tract would meet with your approbation and protection; and that by this public instance I am encouraged to take the liberty of declaring myself, with the most profound respect,

SIR,

Your most obedient,

And most humble Servant,

LONDON, *Suffolk Street,*
Charing-Cross.

J. SMYTH.

T H E

THE

P R E F A C E.

THERE are some things necessary to advertise the reader of, by way of Preface to the following work, both in regard to its publication, and the particulars wherein it is proposed to be more useful to the afflicted than any thing of the kind ever yet attempted.

I am not altogether unacquainted that it must undergo censure; this gives me no uneasiness; when I began these few pages, I never entertained a thought of pleasing the critic; my study was to be as instructive to the diseased reader as in my power.

However uncouth the style may be, and as incoherently thrown together, I have made it a point to adhere to candour, with the punctuality which should guide the pen of every honest man. Through the whole, I have observed carefully to avoid making use of any technical expressions, lest I might not be understood by the meanest capacity.

This

P R E F A C E.

This Treatise being principally intended for the perusal of the diseased, and those who have been ill-treated, or, by taking mercury, labour under complaints better known than removed, renders it highly necessary for every circumstance to be explained in the most familiar terms.

My deviating from the common tract of treating the venereal disease, gleet, &c. I am certain will be condemned by those who will not be convinced of their error. However, the deviation I readily own; for it is not always a sign of being right to follow with the mob. I must confess, I pursued the usual method for some time, till experience pointed out to me the mild, safe, and expeditious means, which is the cause of this publication.

I would not have it imagined, I censure my brethren of the faculty, I mean the ingenious part of them, whose success in the healing art daily convinces the world of their merit; some of whom I am under many obligations to, and have the greatest respect for.

What the reader is to expect in the following pages, I will now give the heads of.

1st, The motives that induced me to alter in opinion from the general rule of treating venereal complaints.

P R E F A C E.

2d, A short account of the present mode of practice; a practice that should be dreaded as much as the most malignant symptoms of the disease.

3d, I have endeavoured to describe the villainy of the impostors who reside in this city, who, through their pretensions to physic, rob numbers, not only of their money, without being of any relief to them, but many of their lives.

4th, I have given an account of the origin of this distemper, with observations on the different changes it has gone through, since its first appearance in Europe.

5th, The nature of the venereal virus; what parts are most susceptible of receiving it; and how the disorder is divided into the first and second stage.

6th, An accurate description is given of the venereal infection, from the slightest taint to its most morbid state, laid out in such a manner, that every person may be a judge of the nature and situation of his complaint; and how unnecessary, nay prejudicial, it is, to administer mercury in many venereal cases.

7th, The reader is made acquainted with a newly-discovered medicine; and its comparative
tive

P R E F A C E.

tive excellence to all other remedies, is fairly examined and explained.

Lastly, Some account of gleets and seminal weaknesſes, occaſioned by ſevere treatment in the cure of the venereal diſeaſe, or by that baſe practice, ſelf-pollution, &c. &c. ſhewing how the patient is variously affected, and the method of cure by a reſtorative remedy; a medicine that has relieved thouſands in the moſt deſponding ſituation.

Thus, reader, I have given you a ſketch of this Eſſay; and am in hopes that force of truth, and the reflections which men of reaſon ſhall make upon the ſubject, will be ſufficient to juſtify me, and protect this attempt, which is the reſult of experience; and that the remedies I offer will, ſome time or other, have the preference to all others that are in uſe, for the benefit of mankind.

A NEW
T R E A T I S E
ON THE
VENEREAL DISEASE,

GLEETS, SEMINAL WEAKNESSES, &c.

THE introducing of medicines to the public by way of publications, is so much the characteristic of a quack, that I should think it beneath my notice. The envious, I suppose, will take the liberty to criticise and rank me among the impostors that crowd this metropolis: that gives me no concern, their censure I despise. My intention is, to relieve my fellow-creatures, and rescue their constitutions from mercury and base compositions, the destruction of thousands!

The opportunities I have had when I had the honour of attending some of his majesty's forces, furnished me daily with a number of objects labouring under this dreadful malady, from the slightest infection to its most malignant state. For some time I pursued the beaten path of practice, severe purging, mercurials, &c. &c. and really must confess my cures were tedious, and my patients obnoxious to themselves and others. The ill effects that method of treating venereal complaints met with, was consequently the cause of the deepest cogitations.

B

I con-

I consulted the opinions of authors of the first eminence, and by their assistance, and the experience I had obtained, I fabricated a remedy, which gave me more satisfaction, by expediting my cures, and that with greater ease to my patients, than the present methods, which rather injure than assist the afflicted. Animated with this success, I, with the utmost assiduity, in a series of experiments, came to the perfect knowledge of the venereal infection, and method of cure; and having with no small pains acquired this mild efficacious composition, I gave it with the greatest accuracy, and found it in every respect to answer my most sanguine wish.

However odd and extraordinary my deviating from the general rule of treating this disease may appear, the deviation is absolutely necessary; it is founded on reason, and the result of a successful practice. My enemies, I make no doubt, will give me the appellation of a dealer in nostrums: but I beg leave to assure the unprejudiced reader, that the basis of this medicine is pointed out by some of the most learned professors that ever appeared in physic, though the composition was never before offered to the Public.

Before I proceed further in this discourse, I beg leave to make some observations on the present mode of treating venereal complaints. When the injured person first perceives the infection, which we will suppose to be of a mild nature, viz. a running of matter from the urethra, probably attended with a heat of urine, &c. the afflicted person then seeks for a cure, which is generally conducted in the following manner: severe purging and strong mercurials for some time, until the patient is reduced
to

to so low a state, that he is hardly able to cross his chamber: the complexion of the skin daily changes, the teeth are totally spoiled, and the breath becomes so offensive, that it is next to an impossibility to come within some yards of the diseased person. In consequence of this purgation the heat of urine may be somewhat abated, and the other symptoms appear more mild; the patient is now assured he is almost well, and the running is immediately endeavoured to be stopped by injections, or some other means equally as detrimental. What must then be the result of such proceedings? The disorder now changes its course: the discharge pointed out by nature, to carry off the venereal virus, being stopped, the poison conveys itself to the blood, and, in combination with the mercury, torments the unhappy patient in various manners: continual or flying pains seize the head or limbs; the eyes become sore, the palms of the hands dry and hot, ulcers in the nose, throat, or private parts; blotches, scabs, or a dry scurf, appear on the skin; swellings in the groin called buboes, and many other symptoms, which will be taken notice of in due course. The last symptom, however, is the most favourable, the venereal poison being thrown, by a critical discharge from the blood, on the lymphatic glands of the groin, and, if properly managed, will shortly relieve the patient: but the operation of the knife or caustick being terrifying circumstances to the patient, he readily agrees to have it put back, not knowing the consequences that ensue from that rash step; the infection is thrown a second time into the blood, where it perplexeth the patient in different ways, as before-mentioned.

The diseased person by this time finds himself in a worse situation than at first; and is now probably induced by some pompous advertisement, which daily appears in the news-papers, offering one pernicious compound or another, laid out to delude the unwary; I say, this bait he readily swallows, and innocently perseveres in, until process of time convinces him his money is thrown away, and his constitution reduced to the lowest ebb: a consumption next succeeds, which acts the friendly part, for in a short time it puts a period to the disorder, and the unhappy sufferer's life.

Our patient being now cured effectually, I shall next proceed to give a short detail of quacks, and their medicines, by which, and the following occurrences, the reader may ascertain a knowledge of a set of people he probably thinks does not exist.

A gentleman of fortune, who had in his juvenile days contracted the venereal infection, and had reason to imagine he had been unskilfully treated, and that the poison still remained lurking in his blood, sent for a famous empiric, who, with a boasted nostrum, made his appearance within these few years. The gentleman explained the case, and asked this genius if he could relieve him without the assistance of mercury, having been sufficiently tortured with that unmerciful mineral already. To this he answered in the affirmative. Upon which the gentleman consented, and the cure was immediately proceeded on, which was managed with such dexterity, that the patient was in a high salivation in a few days. Not a little exasperated at finding himself deceived, and in such a situation, he sent for this wonder of the age, who declared
there

there was not a single particle of mercury in any of his medicines, but that they were expelling the mercurials that had formerly been taken. Wonderful indeed must be the remedy, that in a few days will carry off, by the salival glands, the relics of mercury that had lain for years, and probably baffled the endeavours of every rational means! But what was the composition that had this singular effect? Seven grains of *mercurius dulcis*, or sweet mercury, mixed with a little conserve of roses, in the form of a bolus, and given every other night, until the patient was brought into the state mentioned.—This story was told me by a person of veracity, who prepared and administered the medicines according to the quack's direction.

As another instance :

Some few years ago a lock in my house being out of order, I sent for a neighbouring smith, who frequently did jobbs for me. On my servant's return, he told me, that this man was sent to prison for debt. In a short time afterwards, I met this honest vulcan, dressed with a tie-wig, sword, &c. This metamorphosis surprized me much; and when I came home, I enquired of my servant, how the smith lived since he came out of gaol? He told me he had commenced doctor, and produced a hand-bill, wherein he recommends himself to the world as a physician of upwards of forty years practice, arrived from Montpellier.

Another method of deluding the unguarded, is also now become notorious. A number of these mechanics assemble together, and publish themselves under the character of a Company of Surgeons,
or

or Doctor Such-a-one and Co. setting forth the infallibility of their methods, after salivation and every other means has proved ineffectual. Such are the impostors that abound in this metropolis, which is the cause of our Hospitals being daily crowded with miserable objects labouring under this raging malady; yet they find unthinking people credulous enough to believe in their impositions, until woful experience convinces them of their error, when too late. It would fill several volumes to relate the knavish practices of these pretenders to physic, whose entire aim is to get money by ruining the constitutions of their fellow creatures. These gentry I once thought beneath my notice: nor would I have mentioned them here, only that I am sensible it is my duty to give mankind a caution carefully to avoid such a dangerous set of people, and not to split upon the rock which has been the destruction of thousands. But to proceed:

Having informed the reader of the necessity for deviating from the present method of treating this disease, and giving some little account of the quacks and their remedies (for which I am convinced they heartily wish me hanged), I suppose it will be asked, What is my method? To which I answer, Mild cathartics, diuretics, and sudorifics; the means laid down for eradicating the venereal poison by men of the first eminence, such as Boerhaave, Sydenham, and many others, whose names I would take the liberty to mention, and insert their candid observations, only that it would swell this piece much beyond what is intended; therefore I shall just take notice of the rise, progress, and present state of the disease.

Most authors that ever wrote on the venereal disease, differ in opinion relative to its origin. The learned Doctor Astruc tells us, that it was unknown to the ancients, and says it was formerly endemical in the West Indies; and that it was imported from thence by the Spaniards who accompanied the famous Christopher Columbus in his return from the discovery of the New World; and that it made its first appearance in Europe between the years 1494 and 1496. The Doctor also considers the different periods and changes it has already undergone; and observing it has grown gradually milder and milder since its first appearance, he ventures to prognosticate concerning the future periods of it, so as to give us hopes that it may in time be utterly exterminated; but future ages must determine that. It is no way essential to our present purpose to enter into a prolix detail how the venereal disease formerly afflicted the patient: we shall endeavour to explain its *present* symptoms, and method of cure.

The venereal disease is now distinguished by the *first* and *second* stage, or *local* and *universal*. In the *first* stage, or what is called *local*, the venereal poison is supposed not to exist within the limits of the circulation, but to be confined to some particular part of the body, the blood itself remaining uninfected. In the *second* stage, or what is called *universal*, the infection is received into the blood, and, circulating with it, mixes with the several secretions, and renders the whole habit tainted. There is great difference with respect to the degrees of malignity in the venereal poison; in some people it shall be hid a *long time*, without producing any *sensible effects*; in others it will appear in a *few days*,
and

and discover the *highest signs of virulency*. This difference depends, in a great measure, on the constitutions of the persons communicating and receiving the infection: in people of a cold constitution, the active particles of the venereal virus are sometimes so diluted or fixed in viscid humours, as to be capable of acting but in a weak degree; therefore, when that is the case, the symptoms are of a mild and gentle nature, and slow in producing their effects. On the contrary, when the virus is more exalted, as happens in hot and bilious constitutions, it will be capable of acting in a greater degree, and occasion more inflammatory and malignant symptoms; but this difference will be greater when the constitutions of both parties correspond with each other. Thus much may suffice for the nature and difference of the venereal virus.

There are several ways of contracting the venereal infection: a disordered nurse can infect the Infant that sucks her; and, on the other hand, if a child be infected, it is capable of communicating it to the Nurse. It may be likewise contracted by kissing, when the mouth or lips of the diseased party is affected with venereal sores and ulcers.

It may also be contracted by laying in the same bed with a person who has pocky eruptions on the skin: the warmth of the bed opening the pores, and increasing perspiration, the volatile particles of the infected matter are absorbed.

It may likewise be caught by handling venereal sores, if the skin is by any accident raised or opened. For instance: a midwife, who had a small cut on one of her fingers, was called to deliver a woman
who

who happened to be infected, having venereal ulcers on her private parts: the venereal matter flowing from the ulcerated parts, was received into the wound of the finger, and the infection thus caught, ran to a very high degree, and was cured under my inspection.

But the most common way of contracting the infection is by coition. If this disease comes from the parents, it is called *hereditary*; but if contracted by any of the before mentioned means, it is called *acquired*. In the former it generally breaks out in any part of the body; in the latter, it commonly discovers itself first in the parts by which the infection was received. The parts that most readily receive the infection are, those of a spongy texture, and covered with a thin skin, such as, the lips, the mouth, and the genital parts; so that, when the disorder is communicated by contact, some of these places are usually first infected, and discover the first symptoms of it.

Thus when the Nurse contracts the infection by giving suck, heat and inflammation about the nipples and breast are the first symptoms; afterwards more severe ones appear. When the infant sucks it from the Nurse, or a grown person gets it by lascivious kissing, the lips and mouth are the first parts affected: but as coition is the most common way of contracting it, so the first symptoms of it generally appear about the genital parts. By this we may conclude, that, where the infection is first caught, it generally makes its first appearance.

Having now considered the nature and difference of the venereal poison, the different ways it is communicated,

municated, and the aptitude of particular parts to receive it; I shall next give an account of the nature, symptoms, and cure of the infection.

*Of a GONORRHOEA or CLAP, called LOCAL; or
FIRST STAGE of the VENEREAL DISEASE.*

THIS generally makes its appearance in a few days after a connection with an infected person.

First, an universal pain is felt about the genital parts; afterwards, a few specks of matter appear on the linen: and, as it comes, a titillation is felt in the part, which is likewise perceived in making water, and gradually increases to a degree of heat and pain. As the disorder proceeds, other symptoms follow; the erection becomes involuntary and frequent, especially when in bed: the running daily increases, and is either of a whitish, yellow, or green colour; the heat of urine is extremely acute, with frequent desire to make it, though with the greatest difficulty, insomuch that it is only voided by a few drops; a convulsive contraction is felt under the penis, as if it was pulled downward by a cord; this happens at the time of erection, and gives the patient intolerable pain; the running is generally more and more plentiful and foetid, not much unlike the discharge from a cancerous ulcer; phymosis, paraphymosis, crySTALLINES, and shankers, are symptoms that probably next make their appearance: the *phymosis* is, when the prepuce, or skin of the yard, is contracted over the glands, so as not to be drawn back; the *paraphymosis* is just contrary, or when the prepuce is behind

hind the glands, and contracted in such a manner as not to be brought forward. Phymosis may be changed into paraphymosis, if the skin be drawn backwards, when it first begins to tighten and contract. *Crystallines* are bladders that appear on the prepuce or glands of the yard, which are of a transparent red, and sometimes of a darker colour.

Shankers are little callous eating ulcers, occasioned by a venereal virus, and may happen either with or without a gonorrhœa. They commonly appear in the following manner: first, there arises a little red pimple, pointed at top, and replete with a yellow or whitish matter; it is generally hot, and itches, and, when it breaks, produces a little stubborn ulcer, whose bottom is usually covered with a viscid mucus. At length, hardness, and loss of substance, is the infallible proof of it. These ulcers, according to the malignancy of the disease, or the patient's habit of body, have their different appearances: when they arise on the glands of the yard, or inside of the prepuce, soon after an impure contact, those parts being covered but with a thin skin, afford an easy admittance to the venereal poison. Such shankers are *local*; but when they appear in other parts of the body, the complaint is of a long standing, or what is called, the *universal* or *confirmed* *pox*: in which case, they are generally in clusters, and more callous, though probably not so painful.

Another symptom that appears is *venereal buboes*. These are swellings or tumours that arise in the groins, immediately conveyed to those parts by impure coition, or else thrown upon them by a critical discharge from the blood. When such

tumours happen immediately from impure coition, in a few days after having had-to-do with an infected person, the patient perceives a slight pain or stiffness in one or both groins, especially in walking; by degrees the swelling increases; and at length there appears a manifest bubo, which is sometimes round or oblong, sometimes the size of an egg, and sometimes much larger; but when they arise in any considerable space of time after a connection with an infected person, especially if they are attended with a sore throat, venereal ulcers, and the like, they are certain signs of a confirmed pox. A bubo may also arise from a virulent gonorrhœa being imprudently stopped, or when the discharge is too small; and if these buboes are not timely and properly managed, they shortly bring on an universal infection.

It frequently happens in the first or second stage of the disease, that one or both testicles become swelled, painful, and inflamed, occasioned either by the venereal matter not discharging itself through the urethra, or being stopped and restrained by the natural cause, or by astringent injections, &c. or, the venereal poison being concealed in the blood, mixes with the semen, and becomes inspissated, and will cause an obstruction, and stagnate in the spermatic vessels.

There is another species of the infection, improperly called the *dry gonorrhœa*. This affects the patient by a violent heat of urine, with a small, or little or no running; and is sometimes attended with a strangury.

There

There is another kind of venereal complaint that is the product of a recent infection; this is a discharge of a purulent thickish matter, not from the urethra, but from the *corona glandis*, which is commonly painful and inflamed. This complaint was formerly taken notice of by Dr. Sydenham, and since his time by Dr. Turner, and other practitioners.

There are also a number of excrescences that arise about the *anus*, sometimes appearing like the gills of a cock, and sometimes making other appearances; sometimes soft, at other times hard; the former gradually inflame and suppurate, the latter grow cancerous, especially by using irritating applications; which is often the occasion of bringing on a fistula *in ano*; but these excrescences are more often caused by a confirmed than a local infection.

Having now given a brief description of the principal symptoms of the first stage of the venereal infection, I will proceed to give an account of the second stage, I mean that part of it which will be necessary for the instruction of the diseased; so that they may ascertain, with some certainty, a satisfactory knowledge of the situation of their complaints.

The venereal poison, after having infected the parts by which it enters, may be conveyed into the blood two ways; either by the circulation of the blood itself, which, in passing by the confines of the parts affected, takes up and carries off some of the virulent particles along with it; or else by the circulation of the lymph, which, in its return
from

from the parts that first imbibed the infection, conveys the virulent matter along with it, first into the lymphatic glands, and afterwards into the blood.

The several disorders of the genital parts increase, or become more malignant, or break out again, after being probably pronounced cured, or else arise anew where they have not been before. If the patient is afflicted with a gonorrhœa, the discharge increases, and becomes more acrimonious, and all the inflammatory symptoms increase likewise. If the genital parts, or the *anus*, are affected with shankerous ulcers, or excrescences of any kind, though these symptoms are merely local, they become more stubborn when supported by an infected state of the blood. The same may be said of buboes, which, after they have been opened, often become stubborn callous ulcers. If a person having had a connection with an infected party, and receiving the infection, attended with all its local symptoms, be properly cured, it never more returns, without a fresh infection; but if imprudently treated, which is too often the case, the disorder will return, probably a long time after, not only with some or all of the former symptoms, but a tribe of others. A confirmed infection shews itself by numberless symptoms, of which these are the most common; buboes, swelling of the testicles, shankers in or about the genital parts; excrescences of different colours appear on the skin; viz. red, yellow, livid, particularly on the breast, or between the shoulders: also scurfy eruptions, with hard callous bases, appear in the corners of the mouth, upon the forehead and temples, and behind the ears, and from thence spread all over the

the head, and by degrees, over other parts of the body. In time these pustules are covered with broad crusty scabs of a tawny yellow hue; and when they occupy the hairy part, they destroy the roots of the hair, and a baldness is the consequence.

The palms of the hands do now become dry and hot, and sometimes cause dry, callous, itching chops, which discharge a thin ichor: when these fissures are dead, the skin often separates from the subjacent skin, and casts off in a thin scab.

The nails of the fingers and toes become rough, uneven, and ragged; and at length, inflaming and ulcerating about the roots, they loosen, and fall quite off: this is a symptom rarely met with.

When the disorder seizes the mouth, it produces little round stubborn ulcers upon the gums and inside of the lips; the whole arch of the fauces becomes hot, painful, inflamed, and ulcerated; the ulcerations spread, and, eating deep, communicate to the palate-bones; in consequence of which the breath becomes offensive, and the bones exfoliate, and sometimes come quite away, so that the patient speaks through the nose.

Pustules arise also in the palate, and become ulcers; by which the bones are rendered carious and perforated, sometimes as far as the nose.

When the disorder attacks the nose, stinking ulcers fix upon one or both alæ, or sides of the nose, the outsides of which are generally covered with
a hard

a hard black scab that comes away in blowing the nose, and is followed by a bloody mucus: at other times there is no scab at all, but a constant oozing of a thin stinking sanies. These ulcers often spread, and rot the alæ, corrode the cartilages, foul the spongy bones, and quite destroy the whole bridge of the nose.

Together with these complaints, and sometimes precedent to them, the patient is frequently tormented with violent acute pains in the head, arms, and shoulder-blades, shins, and joints; they generally come on while in bed, and go off towards morning: these are called *nocturnal pains*.

Some of these pains are wandering and superficial, others of them are fixed and deep, greatly resembling rheumatic or gouty pains.

Many unfortunate people have laboured for years under the affliction of those pains, mistaking them for the rheumatism and gout, though, on a strict enquiry, found to be caused by the remains of an ill-cured pox, or the effects of mercurials: yet I have been so happy as to find, that by their taking my medicines, they have received the most surprising benefit.

When the infection is communicated by the lymphatic glands, it produces indurated, moveable, circumscribed tumours in the nose, arm-pits, groins, and other parts.

The eyes and ears are likewise variously affected with this disease.

The

The eye-lids become rough and angry, with a discharge of a sharp, watery matter : a dimness of the sight is also felt.

When the disorder affects the ears, it frequently causes a hissing, tingling noise, a thickness of hearing, and deafness ; the inward parts of the ears inflame, suppurate, and are infected with intolerable pain.

To these may be added many other disorders, which sometimes arise from a venereal cause ; such as heaviness of the head attended with pain, palsys, convulsions, asthma, consumption of the lungs, jaundice, dropsy, piles, hectic or intermitting fevers ; also some disorders incident to women, as an ulcer or schirrhous tumour of the womb, frequent abortions, the exclusion of foetuses half rotten, or overspread with an universal erysipelas. In short, the venereal disease, in its confirmed state, is of such a changeable nature, that it puts on the appearance of almost every other kind of disorder.

It must be remarked, however, that all these symptoms are never met with at one and the same time, nor in one and the same person : different people are affected with different symptoms.

Thus far, reader, I have given you an account of the different symptoms by which this complaint affects the diseased person ; so that you may easily judge whether you are at present disordered, or have been ill treated, and there remains any taint of the venereal poison in the blood, or if you are tortured by the baneful effects of mercury.

The medicine I now offer for the cure of the venereal infection, is a composition mild in its operation, though powerful in its effects; it is a remedy founded on the foundest basis of theory, proving its efficacy by thousands of instances, and that without the assistance of a single grain of mercury. It will probably be asked, Why I only should be possessed of this secret? To which I beg leave to answer—My extensive practice in the cure of venereal complaints gave me daily convincing proofs that salivations, and strong courses of mercurial medicines (by their ill effects and frequent non-cures), were not only baneful to the unhappy patients, but that the practice was absolutely erroneous, and contradictory to reason. Every man that expects honour or credit by his profession, ought to leave no stone unturned in search of the surest means to relieve his patient. That was my method; and, by repeated experiments, joined with the opinions of the most eminent authors of the physical province, I obtained what I sought for; I mean, a certain easy method of curing the venereal disease, without injuring the constitutions of my patients, as reiterated experience has sufficiently demonstrated.

This medicine is what may justly be termed (by its known reputation) the *Specific Drops*, a few of which are a dose, taken in any simple liquor, such as a glass of water, a dish of tea, capillaire, &c. in which as much as can be raised on a silver six-pence, of the powder of *sal nitre*, is to be dissolved. This is to be repeated three or four times a day, taking about every second day a dose of gentle physic, viz. an ounce of Glauber's salts, or, in strong constitutions, ten drachms, or an ounce and an half, dissolved

solved in about a gill of warm water. Those who cannot take the common Glauber's salts, may take in the same form, from six drams to an ounce of the *sal de signet de Rochelle*, commonly called the *Rochelle salts*, which is the most agreeable of all the saline preparations. But to those who can by no means whatsoever swallow a draught composed of these purging salts, the following composition will probably be more palatable, and fit more conveniently on the stomach :

Take of the infusion of senna, an ounce and an half.

Of the tincture of senna, half an ounce.

Of powder of jalap, a scruple.

Of nitre, fifteen grains.

Of the compound spirit of lavender, 30 drops.

Of the syrup of buckthorn, 3 drachms mixed.

Let this be taken twice a week, drinking some convenient warm liquor as it operates.

Patients who cannot take a purge in the form of a draught, may use these pills, viz. from a scruple to half a drachm, or two scruples of the *pill ex duobus*, or common purging pill of the shops, made into pills of a middling size, and to be taken twice a week. Proceeding in this manner, and taking the drops three or four times a day, and a gentle dose of any of these purges about twice a week, avoiding, at the same time, high-seasoned and salt provisions, or any violent exercise, I can with the greatest justice affirm, and assure the reader, I never knew to fail of carrying off all the malignant symptoms of a slight injury, in eight, ten, or twelve days, without the least inconvenience to the patient.

Nor are the cures performed by this mild, and I may say (if we consider other methods) pleasant remedy, succeeded by other disorders, which seldom or ever fail of being the case where mercury or severe purging have been the means made use of; viz. long and stubborn gleans, and often a total relaxation of the genital parts; disorders better known than cured.

If the patient is affected with a phymosis, paraphymosis, buboes, shankers, chrysellines, &c. external applications are absolutely necessary; yet they may be contrived in such a manner, that he may conduct himself with perfect ease and secrecy. Application being made personally, or by letter to the Doctor, he will prescribe what is proper on the occasion. Many I have daily under my care, who, before they came to me, let their disorder run to a dangerous length; their situation in life rendering it almost impossible for them to undergo the fashionable way of treating this complaint, which often exposes the patient to the disagreeable circumstance of not being able to conceal the disorder.

Severe purging immediately brings the patient to a languid state; for, as the learned Professor Boerhaave says, there is something poisonous in strong purges, which evidently appears to be the case by their operation. In the next place, the taking of mercurials soon gives the patient a most dreadful obnoxious breath, of a peculiar offensiveness; for mercury has often so quick an effect on some constitutions, that a small quantity of it will have the power immediately to affect the mouth; the gums will grow sore, and swell; the teeth loose, so as not to be able to chew a crust of bread; a
flux

flux of saliva next comes on ; and if the patient is so unlucky as to catch cold, dangerous symptoms ensue, and he is obliged to take to his bed. The mercury now attacks the head, and violent acute pains often seize the whole body, probably attended with a delirium.

As a particular instance of the dreadful effects of strong mercurials, I refer the reader to the following case. Some years ago I was called to a lady of a delicate structure, who had been married about eight months, and at that time lay in a very dangerous situation. Her husband told me, that about half a year before his marriage, he had contracted the venereal infection, but of a very mild nature, having never perceived any other symptoms than a running, attended with a small heat of urine. He said he made immediate application to a certain apothecary, who kept him under a physical discipline near five months ; at the end of which time, having still a running, he used an injection, but was assured the infection was certainly carried off ; which he was induced to believe, by the running stopping soon after the use of the injection. At this time he was obliged to marry, at the particular desire of his friends ; and about six weeks after, his wife began to complain of a severe smarting at the time of making water, and also discovered a few specks of matter on her linen : these symptoms daily increasing, a consternation seized the unhappy couple. He declared that he was innocent, and free from any venereal symptoms ; but in a few days, a small swelling arose in one of his groins, which shortly appeared a manifest bubo. The cause of his wife's complaint was now easily to be accounted for : he had never been cured, and had

had disordered her. Upon this, he applied to a surgeon of his acquaintance, who effectually carried off his complaint in a short time. But to return to the lady, who found herself with child. She could not be persuaded to take any relief during the whole time of her pregnancy: however, being delivered, she consented to take medicines, as soon as the month of her lying-in was expired; in consequence of which, an apothecary was called in (the surgeon who cured the husband, belonging to the army, was gone to join his regiment.) The apothecary proceeded after the usual method, giving mercury hand-over-head, until his patient was brought to a state which he confessed, "required more assistance than he was able to give." Her head, chaps, gums, tongue, eyes, &c. were swelled to a prodigious size, and the discharge of saliva extremely trifling. She knew no one, and raved incessantly. In this situation I found her, and really it somewhat perplexed me: however, as there was no time to be lost, I began to expel the mercury with as much expedition as the case would admit of. In a few days I was so happy as to find the dangerous symptoms much abated, the swelling being a good deal decreased, and the delirium only at intervals. In about ten or twelve days all danger was partly over, but the patient was reduced extremely low: therefore as soon as the case would permit, I introduced my medicines, which, in about five weeks, performed what is expected from a salivation, without being attended with any of the disagreeable and dangerous circumstances; so that my patient wanted nothing now to reinstate her in her former health, but a little proper nourishment.

It evidently appears, from the case of this lady, how cautious we should be in giving mercury to patients whose constitutions we are strangers to. In some people, a few grains will have the most surprising effect. I have known a person thrown into a spitting, merely by papering a quantity of mercurial plaister. In others, I have known it used both internally and externally, to a quantity almost incredible, without shewing the least symptom of salivation: therefore it is evident how cautious we should be in administering a medicine so uncertain in its operation. Moreover, the complaints it leaves after it are often as distressing as the disorder for which it was administered, as I have observed before: violent acute pains in the head or limbs are frequently the result of taking mercury.

An ancient writer, in a dissertation on this disorder, among other cases where mercury has been prejudicial, relates one, in these words: "A man infected with the venereal disease was put under an internal course of mercurials; but after the second or third dose, one of his intestines burst, of which he died."

By an injudicious use of it, whether outwardly applied, or inwardly taken, the nerves are likewise affected, whence spasms, palsies, and too great an attenuation of the fluids, which often bring on a fatal salivation, ulcers in the mouth and throat, and incurable loolencis.

Mercury judiciously administered is, however, undoubtedly a most excellent medicine: it opens the pores, small vessels, and ducts of the glands; resolves obstructed humours, attenuates those which
are

are too thick and viscid, especially the lymph. On all these accounts, it is found of singular service in tumours, swelled glands, a schirrhous spleen, mesentery, or liver, ganglions struma, and other such diseases.

Many singular good properties mercury is possessed of: at the same time, if it is not used with the greatest accuracy, especially in venereal complaints, it should be dreaded as much as arsenic; and I cannot avoid saying, I have seen many safe and effectual cures performed without it. For my own part, I have utterly renounced the internal use of it in the venereal disease (except in some particular cases), which resolution I can never deviate from, while I am so happy as to have discovered a method which has had such success.

In a slight case (I mean, where there is only a running of matter from the urethra, attended with a heat of urine), the patient taking the Specific Drops, as already directed, and making use of the gentle cathartic about twice a week, the complaint will absolutely be carried off in a few days, without any farther inconvenience; and as it acts as an absolute antidote, and operates principally as a diuretic, the urinary passage, which is the seat of the first stage of the disease, being constantly kept cleansed, it is indisputably the most easy and effectual method of eradicating the venereal virus, without distressing the patient with nauseous loads of pills, bolusses, draughts, electuaries, &c. &c. &c. which are not only horridly disagreeable to the palate and stomach, but, by their violent operation, rack the constitution to an irretrievable state. If we but consider maturely the nature of the venereal virus,

virus, and how it affects the parts by which it is received, we can no longer be at a loss to conclude how essential a medicine, composed of a diuretic and sudorific quality, is for carrying off the infection. Let us but remark the observations of the ingenious Monsieur Boteau, an eminent French surgeon, who wrote a very learned treatise on the venereal disease. In his description of the venereal virus, he says as follows. “ The venereal virus, “ examined with a microscope, appears to be loaded “ with small spicula, like little thorns: this infectious matter, in the act of coition, is conveyed “ to either the man or woman. The spicula keep “ irritating the tender parts, which is the cause of “ the titillation that is felt soon after the infection “ is caught, until a general inflammation takes “ place along the urethra; this inflames, swells, “ and at length breaks, and comes to a suppuration; the discharge from which is the matter that “ appears on the linen, when the patient is what is “ vulgarly called *clapped*. It eats and spreads, and “ the discharge daily increases, which excoriates “ as it passes; and this is the cause of the running. “ The urine, which is composed of the saline, acrid “ particles of the blood, passing over the ulcerated “ parts, gives the patient intolerable pain; from “ hence is the cause of what is improperly called “ *heat of urine*.”

This ingenious gentleman goes on with informing us how highly necessary it is to administer a proper diuretic on this occasion.

In what Monsieur Boteau says on this subject, we must allow he argues with great judgment. For my own part, the experience I have acquired

E in

in treating the disease convinces me of the certainty of it; and the medicine I make use of, and now offer to the public, dilutes and attenuates the blood and other juices, disposing their more ferous and humid parts to go off in great quantities through the urinary passages, and also to carry along with them the dregs and impurities of those fluids. This medicine is of a texture so loose and dissoluble, that it mixes most intimately with the blood, and so saturates the whole mass, that if any taint or contagion has infected the juices, or lies lurking in the small vessels, this remedy causes a dissolution of the virulency, washes it away from the habit, and expels it by the urinary channels.

It is a composition of ingredients, whose use requires no confinement or trouble; so innocent, that it may be taken with great advantage in fevers; and yet so effectual, that it thoroughly cures the clap, carrying off, in a little time, the chordee and sharpness of the urine, its uneasy attendants, and indelible marks of the taint, which never disappear till the virus is subdued.

These symptoms have constantly governed my conduct in the cure of a clap: while they are present, the virus is in the urethra; and he who prescribes at this time balsamic, drying, or astringent things, in any form whatever, either does not understand the nature of the disease, or puts the patient to the hazard of a pox, that he may have the reputation of curing with speed.

In fine, the Specific Drops answer exactly the directions of the great Boerhaave, viz. it is a medicine

cine that will communicate itself to all the circulating juices of the body, freeing them from their viscidities, and carrying off their impurities by urine, without relaxing the parts; performing a perfect cure, free from the apprehension of pox or gleet, and requires no very particular management as to diet or exercise, nor restraint of any kind, except from excesses and coition.

After a course of mercurials externally or internally used, the patient is often molested with ulcers, rhagades about the anus, tophs, nodes, gangli, and gummata; but especially pains resembling rheumatic pains, either fixed or wandering, and owing their origin to the venereal infection, or the relics of mercury not properly carried off. In this case I have known my medicine perform wonders: in some, these irksome complaints have been effectually removed: in others, by the use of it, life has been made somewhat more supportable.

A remarkable cure performed by the Specific Drops. Some time ago, a trooper came to advise with me: his disorder was as follows. He told me, that about four years before he called on me, he had contracted the venereal disease, which he neglected as long as he was able to do his duty; he then was salivated, and all the symptoms went off. In about a month after this he perceived a slight pain just at the entrance of the anus, which gradually increased to a violent degree, and extended all along the genital parts. This complaint was so intolerable, that he went through another salivation. As soon as the mercury began to operate, the

pain was removed; but in a little time after the course was over, it returned with the usual violence: however, he submitted to four successive salivations, yet all to no purpose. He also told me he had used the bougies to no effect, but rather increasing than diminishing the pain. In this situation he applied to me, and I really must say, I had but little hopes of relieving him; but as he earnestly intreated I would consider of some means to abate the severe agony he was in, especially in making water, I began with giving him the Specific Drops: a few bottles gave him ease, and in about three weeks or a month, this complaint, that had baffled all the efforts of mercury, was utterly dissipated. It is about nine months since he left off taking the Drops: he called on me the other day with a patient, and told me, he had not felt the least symptoms of the disorder since.

Another case, where the singular effect of the Specific Drops appears, viz. The steward of a nobleman having caught the venereal infection, by ill treatment it became a confirmed pox, for which he was salivated; but an obstinate ulcer fixed itself in the throat, which would not yield to fumigation, or any other methods that were tried with it. Some time ago he came to me; I gave him my medicine, and used a trifling gargle: in a month, the ulcer intirely disappeared, and he has remained well ever since.

Many cases have proved the excellency of this medicine: nor is it confined to the venereal infection alone, for I have tried the efficacy of it in other disorders, and found it of infinite service in
the

the following complaints : the *fluor albus*, or *whites*, a disease incident to women : also the rheumatism, gout, scurvy, and king's evil, in which it answered better than the chain of remedies generally made use of on those occasions. Moreover, I can aver, that this medicine never did any harm to a patient, which is more than can be said of many others.

I must also observe, that this medicine may be taken by women in their pregnancy ; so that, in case they are disordered, the infection may be eradicated with ease and safety, without waiting till after delivery ; which is often the occasion of children dying miserable objects, and the constitutions of the women being severely wrecked.

Before I conclude this treatise, I will, for the perusal and relief of the afflicted, make some observations on a disorder which generally follows a venereal complaint, where those destructive methods, strong purging, or mercurials, have been used. This is a gleet, or weakness occasioned also by that horrid and worst of habits, self-pollution ; which often reduces the patient to so desponding a state, as to render life almost an unsupportable burthen.

During the course of my practice, having been applied to by many miserable objects labouring under stubborn gleets and weaknesses, and sometimes total debilitation, occasioned by severe treatment in the venereal disease, frequent debauches, or self-abuse, I was induced to consider of some means to relieve them. I tried a number of compositions,

positions, until at length experience discovered to me one possessed of every salutary quality which is required for the effectual removing such complaints.

But before I proceed to an account of this medicine, it will first be necessary to explain the nature and symptoms of a gleet, and also in what manner the patient is affected, when the disorder arises from self-pollution.

Brief

Brief Observations on GLEETS, SEMINAL WEAKNESSES, the CAUSES of IMPOTENCY, and the miserable Complaints occasioned by that detestable Vice, SELF-POLLUTION. or too early and excessive Venery. Directing a Method of Cure established on reiterated Experience.

Nihil est malum, nisi quod turpe aut vitiosum est. CIC.

There is nothing bad, but what tends to corrupt or injure the mind.

THE above quotation, I flatter myself, will sufficiently authorize, or, at least, take off any imputation of indecency for my offering to public view an essay on the above subject. I beg leave to point out many delusive practices daily made use of by Empirics, and, at the same time, to recommend a speedy, safe, and certain remedy, which many have experienced to their inexpressible satisfaction; the success of which induced me to publish this Tract, on which, as soon as time will permit, the subject shall be more amply enlarged. —But to proceed.

Of all the disorders that afflict the human body, not any, I affirm, has baffled the faculty in physic more than what I shall now treat of. An extensive practice in the cure of venereal complaints has furnished me with a sufficient number of objects labouring under obstinate gleets, imbecillities, &c. arising from different causes, to render me not only a competent judge of those disorders, but to enable me

me also to form an easy, safe, and rational method of cure; I mean for those whose constitutions are not reduced beyond the power of art to retrieve.

Experience (the established foundation of physic) is the only true path to guide the practitioner to a thorough knowledge of diseases, and the methods of cure. With submission to my brethren of the faculty, they must confess, that the curing gleans and seminal discharges have given them more trouble than the most acute disorders; and numbers who have laboured under the same, by applying to Empirics, have been loaded with nauseous medicines, without any effect but that of despondency, soon after succeeded by a total dissolution of the emaciated patient.

With respect to gleans and seminal discharges, arising from various causes, it is necessary to take notice of the different symptoms in so distinct a manner, as to furnish my readers with a proper idea of the different species of those disorders; that they may, with the greatest certainty, ascertain what part of malignancy they labour under.

Therefore, first, of the Venereal Gleet.

A venereal gleet is an obstinate continuance of a running, after all the symptoms of the infection are removed. The discharge from the urethra in men, and the vagina in women, that succeeds a virulent gonorrhœa, is comprehended as a gleet, of which there are two species, their causes being far different from one another: the one proceeds from the relaxation or erosion of the excretory ducts that open into the urethra; the other, from ulcers that remain

remain in the passages after the virulency of the gonorrhœa has been carried off.

These ulcers are stated indifferently in any part of the urethra; but wheresoever they are fixed, they furnish a discharge of some sort or other: if they are foul, the discharge will be thin, yellow, and sometimes greenish, and now and then tinged with blood, especially after a debauch. If these ulcers are clean, the discharge will be white, thick, and sometimes clammy, and the discharge more or less, according to their size and number: if they are few, or only one, and small, the discharge will be less considerable. In the last case, the excretory ducts of the seminal vessels and prostate glands will be eroded, and the gleet will be partly seminal, and partly matter.

This species of a gleet which arises from ulcers, is not attended with the symptoms of debility, as if wholly seminal.

There is another species of gleet that attends the female sex, called by them the *whites*: it arises from a laxness of the glands of the womb, and a cold pituitous blood, that, instead of the menstrual discharges, issues out a slimy yellow matter, not much unlike the running of a gonorrhœa, and so near akin, as hardly to be distinguished; and is sometimes attended with such a sharpness, as to make it dangerous for men to have any venereal intercourses with them at these times. This disorder is frequently the cause of barrenness, and brings on many other diseases, which often terminate in a consumption.

A gleet may be occasioned either by long-continued, violent, and repeated gonorrhœas, the taking of strong purges, excessive, or too early venery, or by that detestable practice, self-pollution. It generally appears when the patient is raised by venereal ideas in making water, or in going to stool; and in this case the afflicted is frequently troubled with involuntary nocturnal emissions.

If there be a constant gleeting of the seminal humours, though ever so small, the patient will be but seldom stimulated to venery.

If the seminal discharge be not continual, but only returns at particular times, the disinclination to venery will be much less than in the former case: but whenever an erection happens, the semen will be discharged sooner than it ought; and the stimulus to venery being by that means taken off, the yard will become flaccid, so as to hinder the act of coition.

And if the seminal discharge be very great, whether by way of running, or from nocturnal emissions; in either case, the balsamic and spirituous part of the blood will be gradually exhausted, so as to render the parts of generation totally debilitated.

The complaints that attend this species of gleets are in some measure similar to those occasioned by that horrid unmanly vice, self-pollution; a vice shocking as indelicate to the ear; a vice productive of the most deplorable disorders, and of so abominable a nature, that I should willingly omit the

the

the least intimation thereof, to avoid injuring the delicacy of my reader, had not a series of successful practice crowded me with an incredible number of unhappy people addicted to this enormous crime, which brought on the most dismal diseases, such as vertigoes, or giddiness in the head, with dimness of sight, apoplexies, palsies, lethargies, loss of memory, lowness of spirits, a *tabes dorsalis*, or consumption in the back; in short, a concatenation of every thing prejudicial to the human frame.

By it the whole nervous system becomes impoverished, with an utter impotence for venereal enjoyments, the health and vigour being so precipitately exhausted, an immature old age must inevitably ensue; the certain result of these execrable and inordinate passions, even in the very bloom of youth: and I assure the reader, with the greatest veracity, that this vice, too early or excessive venery, and the venereal disease (with the assistance of mercury), increase the bills of mortality more than all the disorders incident to the human body: nor is it in the least to be wondered at; for reason (which ought to be our chief and only guide) dictates to us, that the semen is the very essence of strength; and renders us active, sprightly, and fit for the different occupations in life; but when drained of that prolific juice, our constitutions are rendered old, we become languid and pale, the limbs weak, and incapacitated to perform their several functions. For instance; if the afflicted walks but a little way, he is soon wearied, and affected with pains in the head, neck and shoulders, the small of the back, hips and thighs, testicles, &c. a coldness to the act of coition, and frequently a

total inability is the consequence, That great author Celsus very justly observes, “ We should carefully avoid making too free, or lavishly parting with, what would be our principal relief in sickness.” Therefore, when we are attacked with acute disorders, we must inevitably submit to their force, for want of the essential supply to invigorate the animal spirits.

I could quote many eminent authors, who all coincide with what I here mention; but as divers quotations might rather puzzle and perplex the reader than elucidate the discourse, I have, for the more easy conception of every capacity, steered clear of crowding this treatise with superfluous matter, which many productions abound with, a sure token of a real want of judgment or knowledge in physic; as a subterfuge for which, they have recourse to any author to supply their defects.

I shall now add some singular instances which have occurred in my practice. And first, with respect to the subjects last mentioned.

A gentleman between twenty and thirty years of age, who was, from his infancy, naturally endowed with a robust constitution, till he arrived at an age when nature begins to ripen (which should, at that crisis particularly, be preserved to perfect manhood) though by him was most shamefully abused by this too frequent vice being pointed out to him by a school-fellow, and which he repeated for many years, till his constitution became totally emaciated, and his person a mere shadow of existence. He was given up by several of the faculty as incurable. Having heard of my restorative
remedy,

remedy, and its many extraordinary cures, he was induced to apply to me. Upon my examining thoroughly his complaints, I must confess I was very dubious of the power of medicine to relieve him: however, by the assistance of my restorative medicine, he obtained, I may say, a miraculous cure.

I shall now observe an instance, as well of the bad effects, of, as of too early excess of venereal enjoyments. A young man, who had been greatly addicted thereto, became so reduced and defective, as not to be able to enjoy the embraces of the fair sex for a considerable time; having brought on himself a disorder, I mean that of impotency, of which there are three species.

The first, in which case there is frequently a strong erection, though no emission; or, if any, a thin watery fluid, and even then in a small quantity: this arises from a more close union than before of the excretory ducts of the seminal vessels, the natural consequence of astringent injections, &c. &c.

The second species of this disorder is, when the semen is discharged without any sensation of pleasure; the erection being not natural, occasioned by a too great extension or relaxation of the excretory ducts before mentioned, derived from a gonorrhœa, by ill treatment, the neglect of a patient, excessive venery, or self-pollution.

The last species of this disorder is, when the penis is weak and languid, utterly incapable of erection. This frequently happens from two causes,
First,

First, when the feminal vessels are become callous, or filled with fungous flesh; by which means they are but little, if in the least degree, stimulated by the semen that is collected in them. The second cause consists in a paralytic relaxation of the genital muscles, by whose assistance the penis acquires its rigidity and tension.

But to return to the patient. I found, on examination, that he principally laboured under the complaints that attend the second species of impotency. He told me, that unfortunately having an engagement on his hands that frequently obliged him to venereal carresses, and having formerly abused himself by self-pollution, his vigour gradually declined till at length he became almost debilitated. In this situation he purchased an empirical composition; a composition set off with all the art of rhetoric to enforce on the public its efficacy; which, to his sorrow, totally debilitated him: for having taken a dose going to bed, according to the directions given him, in about an hour after he was seized with most excruciating pain in the genital parts, attended with a violent priapism. Though great the pain, he bore it with uncommon patience, as, by the strength of erection, he flattered himself he could perform wonders; which he was prompted to attempt, by an immensity of furious efforts; by which means he almost killed himself, as well as his female partner; for he was immediately attacked with a strangury, followed by a delirium, so that his life was despaired of. A physician was sent for, who, in some measure, relieved him; and he voided from the urethra a quantity of blood and spungy flesh, accompanied with fainting fits. For three weeks he was confined to his chamber,

chamber, the animal spirits being quite exhausted by a frequent discharge of blood, urine, &c. As soon as these complaints began to alleviate, they were followed by others of equally as distressing a nature, such as, diurnal and nocturnal emissions of the semen to an incredible degree; the penis became quite flaccid, with a vehement pain and tension in the testicles; his sight greatly impaired, insomuch that he could neither read nor write, but tears issued from his eyes, attended with a pain over the eyebrows, as if compressed by a weight; and an infinite number of other painful afflictions.

I gave him my restorative medicine, with the necessary rules for a nourishing regimen, which had the happy effect, in about six weeks to remove the symptoms: the emissions were considerably decreased, and, in some measure, he resumed his former vigour, though he has ever since sustained a great loss of memory.

I cannot forbear taking notice of the shocking effects of stimulating medicines, the preparations of cantharides administered by quacks to excite lust, which they effect by irritating the tender parts of generation, and occasioning a stimulation; but, at the same time, destroy the essential qualification, by leaving the parts utterly incapacitated.

Mr. Quincy says, that in Meckeren's Observations (among other strange instances of their effects this way) he mentions a man who, by taking a dose of cantharides, was so enflamed, that though he had almost killed his wife, who declared to the physicians, who were sent for next day, that he that night *septies hortum fodivit*; yet he continued even
in

in distraction with fresh rage, until he died delirious. Such must have been the fate of the person whose case I before mentioned, had it not been prevented by proper assistance.

With respect to the various compositions offered to the public, pretending to cure gleet, seminal weakness, impotency, &c. &c. I have made a thorough analysis of them, and always found them to consist chiefly of cantharides, which, I think, none but madmen would attempt venturing on; for although they excite a lustful desire, by stimulating and forcing the vessels, they prevent all natural vigour, and frequently leave the parts in an irretrievable state.

Another instance of their dangerous effects. A few years ago I was called to a lady, who had been married a considerable time, without having a child. Being very desirous to become a mother, and imagining herself defective, she had been induced to purchase an advertised medicine *, which is recommended to the fair sex, to cause immediate conception. She accordingly took a dose, and in less than an hour was seized with a violent uterine fever. In this situation I found her; and she being of a very delicate constitution, I apprehended, from what she had taken, that convulsions and a delirium would next follow, and nothing but death could relieve her. However, dangerous as the circumstances appeared, by my administering the proper antidotes, I was happily deceived in my conjectures; for, by an afflux of blood from the uterus, or womb, the malignant symptoms began

* Mrs. G—b—n's.

to abate; but she was reduced so low, that it terminated in a nervous disorder, and it was upwards of six months before the power of medicine and country air could reinstate her in her former health.

It evidently appears from the case of the gentleman, as well as that of the lady, how cautious we should be in taking advertised medicines, especially without first knowing the abilities of the author; and I cannot avoid saying, it is a great remissness in our excellent police not to inspect more closely the published medicines and their proprietors, as it is notoriously known that this metropolis abounds with illiterate pretenders to physic. Some of these gentry conceal their names and places of abode, under pretence of being censured for quackism, and appoint their pernicious compositions to be sold at bookfellers, toy-shops, &c. But the real truth is, being conscious of their own ignorance, they do it to shun an examination, even from their very patients; and for mere lucrative views, stab their fellow-creatures in the dark.

I flatter myself I have now given sufficient reasons, as well as some instances, to deter our unthinking youth, and others, from exhausting their strength too precipitately, and bringing themselves to a premature death; which must inevitably be the consequence, by the disorders that never fail to ensue from being too much addicted to venery, more especially from that horrid crime self-pollution, which must terminate in not only cutting short the thread of life, but in the interim, will be attended with a series of such direful effects, as must render them the most miserable objects breathing, sinking under the complicated

wretchedness of desperate diseases, without the least gleam of hope in this life, and in a manner incapable of preparing themselves for a future state.

I have here, without the least exaggeration, pointed out the delusive pleasures made use of by many, and set forth the malignant effects thereof; and I hope, and doubt not, but those who read this treatise, especially those who have addicted themselves to this horrid custom, will know, from experience, that what I have asserted is not the result of whim, but authenticated by the many dismal spectacles which too frequently present themselves, acknowledging their guilt of such unmanly and pernicious practices. Observing, *Parcere nominibus, & dicere de vitiis*; carefully concealing names and persons, though treating of their vices, can give no offence, but may be a means, I hope, to stop this abominable practice, as every one, with the least reflection, must shudder at the bare apprehension of the dangerous consequences resulting therefrom. I hope I have endeavoured to render this discourse both useful and plain to the meanest capacity, at the same time avoiding to injure the delicate ear as much as the nature of the subject can admit of; and shall be happy in this publication, should it be a means of answering the desired effect.

As a caution to those whose inclinations lead them to venereal intercourses, they should first consider their constitutions; for let the reader well observe, that one of a robust habit of body may, with less danger, indulge himself in those enjoyments to a degree that would be highly prejudicial

dicial to, and amazingly impair, a person of a more delicate constitution; and though moderation, in each respect, ought attentively to be adhered to, yet it is more incumbent on such as nature has formed of a tender structure, to avoid those excesses which their animal system is unable to encounter.

Persons likewise just recovered from sickness should by no means venture on venery; for as coition strains the fibres, relaxes the nerves, and affects every branch of the human frame, it may, by the weakness of the several functions, bring on some of those disorders already taken notice of.

He, therefore, who would frequently engage in venereal embraces, ought to be of age, adult, and of a hale constitution; to avoid, by all means, any intemperance that might impair it, such as excessive drinking, a too laborious or sedentary life, or any thing that would in the least diminish strength; to take sustenance of a nourishing light quality, using gentle salutary exercise; and, in short, to keep the animal œconomy as it were in its equilibrium. Observing these rules, we may venture on venery to a degree of moderation, which we find is not succeeded by weakness or pain, and may then rest assured it is not injurious: for as a certain writer elegantly expresses himself,

“ The youth who bathes in pleasure’s limpid stream
 “ At well-judg’d intervals, feels all his soul
 “ Nerv’d with recruited strength; but if too oft
 “ He swims in sportive mazes through the flood,
 “ It chills his languid virtue.”

To conclude. The Divine Disposer of all things has implanted in us passions for the best of purposes, and at the same time endowed us with a sufficient share of reason (if we give ourselves time to reflect) to curb any impetuosity that might urge us to abuse his great gifts. For it is beyond a doubt, that if those passions are governed according to the Omnipotent Decree, it will encourage us only to use them for good and wise ends; but, by giving way to vicious depraved excesses, we lose the command of our intellects, by plunging ourselves into labyrinths derogatory to the intent of our existence, and pervert the designs of our beneficent Creator; we must then render ourselves and offspring (if by chance any) unequal and despicable to those whose prudence and happy disposition of mind have led them no farther than the limits of reason, and the pleasures of enjoying a quiet conscience.

I shall now beg leave to introduce a certain and effectual remedy for those disorders that are the consequence of excessive venery, or that unnatural, filthy practice, self-pollution. I recommend to the afflicted a medicine which I would by no means presume to do in this public manner, had not a multiplicity of instances, in private practice, proved its efficacy.

Animated by its success, and every day furnishing me with fresh assurances what a welcome reception it would meet with (it having been tried and approved of by some eminent professors of the faculty, and the continual approbations I receive both personally and by letter), I undoubtedly should be an enemy to myself and the public, if I did not disclose its surprizing effects

It is Nature's Restorative; a preparation whose virtues, I hope, are sufficient to defend it from calumny. This medicine is probably the greatest cordial to nature the whole *materia medica* has produced, and will, even at the last ebb of life, afford amazing assistance to the languid spirits. It is an admirable remedy for all weaknesses and relaxations of the body, whether natural or acquired; for it not only fortifies the feeble parts, especially the stomach, after excesses, but gives vigour, if in the power of medicine.

They who, by venereal engagements, repeated salivations, or the frequent use of mercurial medicines, have emaciated their constitutions; also if, by severe illnesses, the animal juices are become so impoverished, that the patient is reduced to a weak state; in all such cases it will, to admiration, nourish, comfort, and revive the whole vital system, and invigorate the animal functions. Persons who have not the happiness to be so ready in their venereal intercourses as they would desire, and probably arising from some of the disorders before mentioned, by the use of this medicine their embraces have been rendered fruitful. With all imaginable expedition it stops obstinate gleet, though probably of a long standing, and after astringent injections and internal remedies have had no effect. In the *fluor albus*, or *whites*, a disorder incident to the fair sex, which is too frequently the cause of barrenness, and a tribe of other melancholy complaints, it is a most excellent remedy.

Much more might be said in behalf of this medicine; but, lest it should be deemed exaggeration,

ration, I shall only say, I hope a trial of it will remove every scruple of diffidence, by restoring health to my patients, and doing honour to my practice.

As a proof of my assertion, I refer my readers to the following letters, the originals of which I have filed, with many others, and publish them by the privileges of the authors.

To Doctor SMYTH.

SIR,

THE benefit I have received from your Restorative Medicine prompts me to return you these my sincere thanks for the assistance you have thus given me. My complaint was a total imbecility of the parts of generation (though a young man), which after taking two bottles of the above Restorative, I thank God, and you, I have entirely regained my former vigour. I give you my free consent (for the benefit of the afflicted) to make this public; and am,

SIR,

Your most humble Servant,

Bath.

E. ADDEN.

The CASE of Captain WEST.

S I R,

HEARING of the reputation of your Restorative Medicine, induced me to make trial of it. My case was, a relaxation of the generative faculties, occasioned, I must confess, by the follies of youthful excesses, and a residence for some time in a hot climate. However, I have taken your Restorative regularly, and have the pleasure to assure you I have entirely regained my former vigour, and now enjoy a better state of health than I have done for some years past—If you think proper, you may publish this; and am,

S I R,

Your most humble Servant,

Scarborough.

OLIVER JAMES WEST.

The CASE of Mr. W. NICHOLSON.

S I R,

I THINK it my duty to inform you, that after taking nine bottles of your Restorative Drops, I am perfectly recovered from a debilitated state, the cause of which I unfortunately brought on myself, by a practice I am ashamed to mention.

I am, Sir,

Your most humble Servant,

Twickenham.

W. NICHOLSON.

The

The CASE of H. FLEETHER, Esq.

SIR,

I SHOULD think myself wanting in gratitude, if I omitted acquainting you that I am perfectly recovered from a relaxed, emaciated state, by taking your Restorative Medicine. My complaints were occasioned, I am well convinced, by the effects of different climates, and partly my own imprudence, the particulars of which delicacy will not permit me to mention. However, as you know the particulars of my case, I give you my consent (as it may be the means of relieving many who labour under similar complaints) to communicate it to the public.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

Bath, Jan. 3, 1773.

HEN. FLETCHER.

The CASE of LEWIS HATFIELD, Esq.

SIR,

I THINK I should be undeserving of the benefit I have received, and greatly deficient in gratitude to you, if I omitted informing you that I am recovered from a deplorable state of body, by taking your Restorative Medicine, I laboured for many years under an universal relaxation, and complication of disorders, occasioned, I am well assured, by juvenile imprudence ; for which I took innumerable medicines, but to no manner of effect. Relating my unhappy case to a gentleman, he advised me to take your medicine; he said a friend of his had been cured by it, on which I began to take it, and by continuing some time, am restored to perfect health.

I am, Sir,

With the greatest respect,

Your very obliged,

Humble Servant,

York, March, 31, 1773.

LEWIS HATFIELD.

The CASE of CHARLES BENSON, Esq.

S I R,

BEING thoroughly recovered from almost an insupportable weakness and relaxed state, by taking your Restorative Medicine, I thought I was in duty bound to make you this public acknowledgment. I fancy my own imprudence laid the foundation of my disorder, for which I took the Bark, preparations of Steel, and many other medicines, but to no effect, till my physician desired me to apply to you ; and, for the benefit I have received, depend I will not only ever hold a grateful sense of, but endeavour to promote your interest to the utmost of my power.

I am, Sir,

Your most humble Servant,

Bath, Dec. 16, 1773.

C. BENSON.

S I R,

THE benefits I have received by taking your RESTORATIVE MEDICINE, oblige me to return my sincere thanks for a recovery which frustrated the hopes of a variety of medicines prescribed for me ; and indeed, I am well convinced.

vinced I must have remained in a weak, and otherwise unhappy state, had not a fellow-sufferer (whom you have relieved) insisted on my taking your Restorative Medicine, by which I have received such amazing relief, that you have my consent to make what use you please of this letter, and depend I will take every opportunity to recommend your valuable Medicine. I am

Your most humble Servant,

Edinburgh,
May, 27, 1775.

GEORGE CAMPBELL.

To Doctor SMYTH, Suffolk-street, near Charing-cross, London.

S I R,

THE surprising Benefit I have received by taking your RESTORATIVE MEDICINE, obliges me to render you my sincere thanks. I am well convinced that my complaints were occasioned by youthful imprudence, and the effects of a hot climate. I took a variety of medicines to little or no purpose; but by chance meeting with a gentleman who had been your patient, he advised me to try your medicine, which I did, and am happy to confess that I enjoy a better state of health now than I have done for some years past. You may, if you think proper, publish this letter.

I am, Sir,

Your most humble servant,

Bristol,
Jan. 16, 1780.

A. BROWNE.

Some hundreds of cases I could here exemplify, and point out the different diseases, and from whence their complaints arose; but lest it might offend those who have honoured me with their confidence, I would not attempt offering to public view, matters of such a delicate nature, without the immediate approbation of the individuals.

I must now come to a conclusion, and hope this short essay will meet with as favourable a reception as the remedies offered in it have done. So plain a description is given of the venereal infection, gleets, &c. that the afflicted, by comparing their case with the different symptoms, may easily know the situation of their disorder, and the real cause of their complaint. There is one thing to be observed in this Treatise, viz. that the reason the venereal symptoms in women are not distinctly described, is, that it would be only a repetition of the same thing over again, as that disease affects both sexes much in the same manner.

Before I close this discourse, I must beg leave, in vindication of myself, to add the following remarks: That an attempt to make an improvement in any art, science, or profession, will ever meet with enemies in persons of low and base minds, who, envious of others success, vainly endeavour, by censuring them, to impose on the understanding of mankind; vainly I say, because their shallow capacities cannot comprehend how easily the fallacy is seen through. Attacks of this nature, no doubt, are made on me by these splenetic gentry, which I attribute to the great success I daily meet with; but hope, it is beyond the reach

reach of such to injure or prejudice me in my profession. But why should I expect to go uncensured, since it has been the fate of the greatest men that ever appeared in the physical province? However, to all calumniators my reply is, and ever shall be—I laugh at their folly; and despise their meannesses.

* * * Those who chuse to communicate their cases by letter, are desired to be as explicit and clear as possible, and they shall be as agreeably answered.

P. S. Any person inclined to come under the Doctor's immediate inspection, may be accommodated in his house, with care, tenderness, and secrecy.

☞ The Treatise on the Venereal Disease, Gleets, &c. &c. &c. Price 1s 6d. the Restorative for Weaknesses, &c. price 1l. 1s. and 10s. 6d. a bottle, (with directions sealed with each bottle) and the Specific Drops for Venereal Complaints, in bottles at 5s. and 2s 6d. each (with sealed directions likewise) are to be had at the following places in London, viz.

Mr. Pridden, bookseller and stationer, No. 100. Fleet-street.

Mr. Cavell, bookseller, Middle-Row, Holborn.

Mr. Axtell, bookseller, No. 1. Finch-lane, Cornhill.

Mr. Tilly, bookseller, No. 30. Fish-street Hill, London Bridge.

And of the Doctor, in Suffolk-street, near Charing-cross, London (Removed from the Adelphi), who may be consulted personally, or by letter, post paid.

To

To be had also of the following Persons.

Mr. Breadhower, Portsmouth.
 Mr. Burrowes, Worcester.
 Mr. Burbage, Nottingham.
 Mr. Browne, Hull.
 Mr. Crutwell, Bath.
 Mr. Cowper, Cambridge.
 Collins and Co. Salisbury.
 Carnan and Co. Reading.
 Mr. Curtis, Worktop.
 Mr. Chase, Norwich.
 Mr. Drewry, Derby.
 Mr. Fisher, Rochester.
 Goadby and Co. Sherborne.
 Mr. Gregory, Leicester.
 Mr. Gillman, Chatham.
 Mr. Howgrave, Stamford.
 Mr. Harrop, Manchester.
 Mr. Jackson, Oxford.
 Mr. Keymer, Colchester.
 Mr. Murch, Barnstaple.
 Mr. Megget, Wakefield.
 Mr. Monk, Chester.
 Mr. Pugh, Hereford.
 Mr. Pine, Bristol.
 Pearson and Co. Birmingham.
 Mr. Raikes, Gloucester.
 Mr. Slack, Newcastle upon Tyne.
 Simmons and Co. Canterbury.
 Mr. Simmonds, Blandford.
 Mr. Thorn, Exeter.
 Mr. Walker, Maidstone.

Wright and Son, Leeds.
Willson and Son, York.
Mr. Wallis, Plymouth.

Sold also in Ireland, by Bagnel and Co. Cork.

F I N I S.

1881

1881
1882
1883

1884

1885

1886

1887

1888

1889

1890

1891

1892

1893

1894

1895

1896

1897

1898

1899

1900

1901

1902